



MEMORANDUM

TO: Colleen Kirk, Austin Water Utility

FROM: Chuck Lesniak, Environmental Officer
Watershed Protection Department

DATE: July 18, 2016

SUBJECT: Texas Plume Wastewater SER #3823

As you know, Service Extension Requests (SERs) located in the Drinking Water Protection Zone (DWPZ) and outside of the City of Austin's Full Purpose Jurisdiction require Council approval and in most cases, recommendation by the Environmental Commission. Recommendation by the Environmental Commission is not required under the following conditions, as per an interdepartmental agreement between Watershed Protection Department (WPD) and Austin Water Utility (AW) established in 2012:

“All SERs in the Drinking Water Protection Zone and outside the City's full purpose jurisdiction that involve a cutover from an existing on-site sewage facility (septic tank) to the City's centralized wastewater system or an SER for a one lot single-family tract comprising of an acre or less will not be sent to the Environmental Board for its review unless the Austin Water Utility is also requesting, as part of the SER, an increase in the wastewater capacity of the infrastructure.”

The Texas Plume wastewater SER #3823 is for a single-family residence on a .45 acre site requesting to cutover from an existing on-site sewage facility (OSSF) without proposed increases in wastewater capacity, and therefore does not require Environmental Commission recommendation.

Watershed Protection Department (WPD) staff has completed the review for the Texas Plume wastewater SER #3823 and recommends approval of the item.

Site Overview

The site consists of an existing single-family residence on a .45 acre lot, located in the City of Austin's Limited Purpose Jurisdiction in the Bull Creek watershed. The site is located in the DWPZ and Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone (EARZ), in the Water Supply Suburban watershed regulation area. The existing residence was constructed in 1973 and uses a privately-maintained OSSF.

Development Impacts

The extension would serve an existing single-family residence in an area that is fully-developed with single-family residences. WPD does not anticipate increased development intensity as a result of this SER.

Environmental Impacts

The site is located in an environmentally-sensitive area where the City does not encourage increased development intensity. The entire site is located within the DWPZ and EARZ and drains to sensitive environmental features, including seeps, springs, headwaters creeks, and Jollyville Plateau Salamander (JPS) habitat. Providing centralized wastewater service to the site may avoid potential negative water quality impacts associated with on-site septic treatment to these nearby surface water and groundwater resources.

Recommendation

WPD staff concludes that providing centralized service could solve known potential environmental problems associated with the existing OSSF and would not facilitate increased development intensity in the area. We recommend approval for Service Extension Request #3823.

Please feel free to contact me at 974-2699 or Kelly Gagnon at 974-9368 with your questions or comments.

cc: Phillip Jaeger, Austin Water Utility
Kelly Gagnon, Watershed Protection Department